Environmental Geotechnical Specialists

RGS

COAL MINING

RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT

job number	C4462/24/E/6809
date	28.06.24
site address	Northorpe Croft 43 Northorpe Lane Mirfield WF14 0QJ
written by	R.A. Palmer
checked by	I. Sakoor
issued by	R.A. Palmer

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Report on a Coal Mining Risk Assessment

Location:	Northorpe Croft 43 Northorpe Lane, Mirfield WF14 0QJ
For:	Jonathan Duggleby
Consultants:	Northlight Architecture Ltd
Report No.	C4462/24/E/6809 Report date: June 2024

For and on behalf of **Rogers Geotechnical Services Ltd**

Redacted Redacted

Rob Palmer MSc FGS ACIEH
Engineering Director

Imran Sakoor BEng FGS
Geo-environmental Engineer

1. Introduction

It is understood that as part of the planning application at the site, a Coal Mining Risk Assessment has been requested by the planning authority. Consequently, a desktop study was commissioned in order to assess the risk to the development from coal mining. This report presents the findings of the study.

2. Geological Desk Study

The geological desk study has been undertaken using the following sources of information.

- British Geological Survey 1:50,000 map sheet[1].
- British Geological Survey 1:10,000 map sheet[2].
- British Geological Survey *GeoIndex Onshore*[3].
- Coal Authority Consultants Coal Mining Report[4].

[1] Sources: British Geological Survey (NERC) Map Sheet 77; Huddersfield Solid and Drift Edition
[2] Sources: British Geological Survey (NERC) Map Sheet SE22SW Solid Edition
[3] Sources: British Geological Survey (NERC) GeoIndex Onshore [*online resource from www.bgs.ac.uk*]
[4] Coal Authority Reference: 51003433023001 dated 24th June 2024

2.1 British Geological Survey Maps and Viewer

The appropriate map sheet for the site and the geology viewer has been examined and the following table presents the indicated geology:

Table 1: Geological Data for the Site

Strata Type	Strata Name[5]	Parent Unit[6]	Description[3]
Superficial Geology	None recorded	-	-
Solid Geology	Sandstone unit	Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation	Typically pale grey sandstone, interbedded with mudstone and siltstone.

The site is indicated to be underlain by an unnamed sandstone unit of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation (PLCMF). It should be appreciated that the site is positioned within a heavily faulted area, with the site itself positioned on a graben, with near parallel faults present to the east and west of the site. The fault to the west caused further displacement than the fault to the west. This has resulted in the Falhouse Rock being present to the west, however the unnamed sandstone unit continues to the east. In addition, another fault is present to the north, which has again resulted in the Falhouse Rock being present to the north.

There are no dip indicators present within the graben itself. There is one dip indicator west of the site that suggests the solid geology dips 3° to the east. This would appear to correlate with the outcrop patterns in the local area

There is one local coal seam that is shown to outcrop within the local area. This seam is summarised as follows:

Table 2: Summary of Coal Seams Within the Vicinity of the Site

Seam Name	Seam Thickness[5]*	Outcrop Distance from Site[5]*	Anticipated Depth
Wheatley Lime Coal	0.7m to 0.8m	80m SE	10m to 15m

*All distances are given as approximations only. It should be noted that coal seam thicknesses vary over relatively short distances

In light of the above, and taking into account the regional structural geology and the topography of the area, the Wheatley Lime Coal seam is anticipated to be present at depths of less than 30m below the surface of the site. With reference to the generalised vertical section (GVS) on the published geological maps, the next coal seam in the PLCMF sequence is the Middle Eleven Yard Coal, however this appears to generally be absent in the area. If present, this could be expected at depths of between 20m and 25m. Beyond this, the Blocking Rider Coal and Blocking Coal (locally referred to as Silkstone) could be expected at respective depths of 30m and 35m.

[5] Sources: British Geological Survey (NERC) 1:10000 Map Sheets SE22SW; [*online resource from www.bgs.ac.uk*]
[6] Sources: British Geological Survey (NERC) Lexicon of Named Rock Units [*online resource from www.bgs.ac.uk*]

2.2 Coal Authority Mines Report

As part of this study a Coal Authority Consultants Coal Mining Report has been obtained. The report is presented as Appendix 2 and for the purposes of discussion has been summarised below:

Table 3: Summary of the Consultant's Coal Mining Report

Has the report highlighted evidence or potential of:			
Ref	**Mining Feature**	**Yes/No**	**Comments**
1	Underground Coal Mining	Yes	Silkstone – 14m depth – North-East – 0.51m thickness – last worked 1870. Black Bed – 141m depth – Beneath Site – 0.76m thickness – last worked 1885.
2	Probable Unrecorded Shallow Workings	Yes	No details issued.
3	Spine Roadways at Shallow Depth	No	No spine roadway recorded at shallow depth.
4	Mine Entries	Yes	Three entries situated between 30m and 50m to the west. Shaft - 421421-005 GR 421270 421054 Adit - 421421-019 GR 421292 421077 Adit - 421421-023 GR 421289 421056
5	Abandoned mine plans	Yes	Plans of abandoned mine workings below the site are suggested to be available by the Coal Authority.
6	Outcrops	No	No outcrops recorded.
7	Geological Faults	No	No faults, fissures or breaklines recorded.
8	Opencast Mines	No	None recorded within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.
9	Coal Authority Managed Tips	No	None recorded within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.
10	Site Investigations	No	None recorded within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary
11	Remediated Sites	No	None recorded within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary.
12	Coal Mining Subsidence	No	The Coal Authority has not received a damage notice or claim for the subject property, or any property within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary, since 31st October 1994. There is no current Stop Notice delaying the start of remedial works or repairs to the property. The Coal Authority is not aware of any request having been made to carry out preventive works before coal is worked under section 33 of the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991.
13	Mine Gas	No	None recorded within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.
14	Mine Water Treatment Schemes	No	None recorded within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.
15	Future underground mining	No	For further information please see section 3 of the Consultant's Coal Mining Report.
16	Coal mining licensing	No	
17	Court orders	No	
18	Section 46 notices	No	
19	Withdrawal of support notices	No	
20	Payments to owners of former copyhold land	No	

It should be noted that shallow coal workings are recorded at 14m depth, albeit this is noted to be North-East of the site. Moreover, the workings are recorded within the Silkstone Coal (Blocking Coal). Given the geological map estimates the depth of the Blocking Coal to be present at depths in excess of the 30m, it is expected that the shallow recorded workings are present within another fault block.

2.3 Geological Survey Borehole Records

The British Geological Survey (NERC) keeps borehole records from across Britain which are available for public viewing through their website[7]. As part of this study, the records in the area around the site have been reviewed in order to assist in establishing the geological conditions. Unfortunately, in this instance, there are no borehole scans available within the vicinity of the site that will assist with this assessment. This is primarily due to the nature of the faulting in the local area.

3. Risk Assessment

The risk to the stability of the proposed residential development has been evaluated from the data obtained and with reference to the following ratings and definitions:

Low - The possibility of instability is unlikely therefore no further action is necessary.

Moderate - The possibility of instability is likely and further investigation or remedial action may be required.

High - The possibility of instability is highly likely and further investigation or remedial action will be necessary.

Table 4: Development Specific Risk Assessment

Item	Risk attributed to	Coal Seam(s)/Feature(s) Considered	Risk Rating
3.1	Shallow coal workings	Wheatley Lime	Low to Moderate
		Middleton Eleven Yards	Low
		Blocking Rider Coal	Low
3.2	Coal workings at depth	Blacked Bed	Low
3.3	Mine gas	Shallow coal workings	Low to Moderate
3.4	Mine entries	421421-005	Low
		421421-019	Low
		421421-023	Low

3.1 Risks Posed by Shallow Coal Workings

On the basis of all of the information provided above, three coal seams are anticipated to be present within 30m of the surface at the site. Whilst these seams may be of limited thickness, the possibility of the two uppermost seams being worked below the site cannot be ruled out. Historic coal mining activity is evident in the nearby area, and therefore it is considered that if coal was known to be close to ground level it could have been removed illicitly via shallow mining methods with relative ease.

It may be noted that guidance available from both the NHBC and the CIRIA publication, SP32 - *construction over abandoned mine workings,* suggests that competent overburden thickness above a coal seam should be greater than 10 times the thickness of a seam plus seam thickness in order that the collapse of workings would pose a low risk to surface structures.

On this basis, assuming a maximum thickness of the coal seams, the table below suggests the thickness of competent overburden required above each seam to mitigate instability at the surface.

Table 5: Required Thickness of Competent Overburden

Seam Name	Seam Thickness	Anticipated Depth	Required Thickness of Competent Overburden
Wheatley Lime Coal	0.7m to 0.8m	10m to 15m	8.8m
Middle Eleven Yard Coal	0.3m to 0.9m	20m to 25m	9.9m
Blocking Rider Coal	0.0m to 0.2m	30m	2.2m

Based on the above information, it is considered that there should be a sufficient thickness of competent overburden above the shallowest seam in order to prevent the risk of instability posed by the presence of any illicit workings. However, if worked, the working thickness could exceed 0.8m, as a seatearth or other stone may have also been extracted during the mining. Notwithstanding this, the site is indicated to be underlain by a sandstone unit which should contribute well to the overburden stability. It is recommended that to mitigate against any latent risks, the development should be constructed upon a raft foundation.

Based on the anticipated depths below ground level, there will likely be a sufficient thickness of competent overburden above both the Middle Eleven Yard and Blocking Rider Coal seams, such that the risk from the collapse of workings at deeper depths is low.

3.2 Risks Posed by Coal Workings at Depth

In regard to deeper mining which could affect the site, the property is not within a surface area that could be affected by past underground mining.

3.3 Risks Posed by Mine Gas

This assessment has identified that there is potential for shallow mine workings to be present beneath the proposed development. Whilst the Consultants Coal Mining Report has not reported any incidents of mine gas within the vicinity of the development, shallow mining activity represents a potential source of ground gas. As such, a low to moderate risk rating has been assigned, and further assessment may be required.

Such assessments may stipulate that a regime of gas monitoring is undertaken to quantify the risks posed by mine gas. Alternatively, in a scenario where gas monitoring has not been considered, suitable gas protection measures may be required. It should be appreciated that such measures could be designed in accordance with BS8485: 2015 +A1: 2019: *Code of practice for the design of protective measures for methane and carbon dioxide ground gases for new buildings.* It should be noted that in any event, the above will need to be agreed with the local authority prior to construction, as they are the final arbiters on these matters. It should be borne in mind that a monolithic raft foundation will contribute positively to a ground gas protection score.

3.4 Risks Posed by Mine Entries

The shaft and adits are disregarded in terms of a risk to surface stability as they are situated a significant distance from the site. Moreover, neither adit is directly orientated towards the site. Of note is that C421421-019 is orientated down slope of its plotted location, which seems unusual as these entries are typically orientated toward a slope. It is possible that this is an incorrect record, or likely a record of a mine entry at depth.

4. Conclusions

The assessment has identified that illicit shallow workings could be present beneath the site. However, it is likely that sufficient competent overburden will be present above any workings, with sandstone forming a part of this overburden. Surface instability is deemed to be unlikely, however to account for any latent risks, it is recommended that the development is constructed on a raft foundation.

The potential for mine gas cannot be discounted, although there appears to be limited evidence of any potential risks in the area. A ground gas risk assessment may be required by the local authority, whereby ground gas protection measures could be deemed necessary.

It is of note that Rogers Geotechnical Services would be happy to assist in any further intrusive investigation that may be required. It is considered that approval should be sought with the Local Authority with the regards to the above recommendations.

Appendix 1

Site Plan

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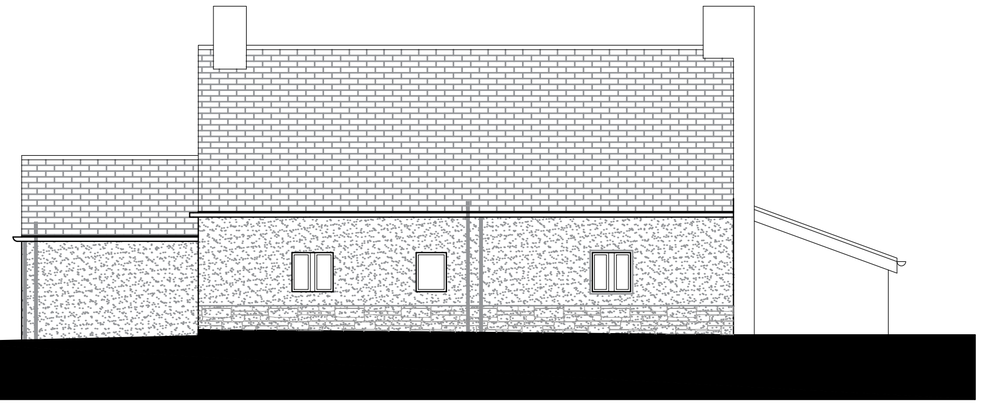
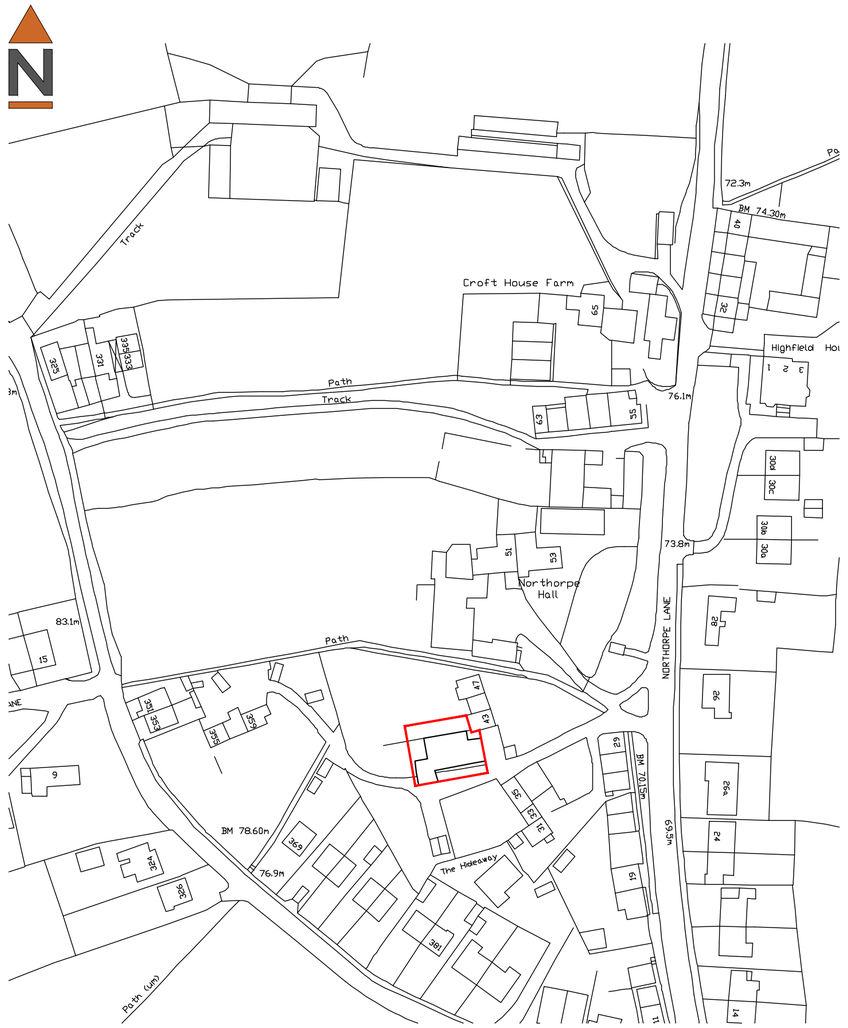
1 SOUTH ELEVATION AS EXISTING
SCALE 1:100

2 WEST ELEVATION AS EXISTING
SCALE 1:100



3 NORTH ELEVATION AS EXISTING
SCALE 1:100



4 SITE LOCATION PLAN
SCALE 1:1250

Revisions

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Client
Northorpe Hall Child & Family Trust

Project
Northorpe Croft
43 Northorpe Lane,
Mirfield, WF14 0QJ

Drawing title
Elevations & Site Location Plan
as Existing

SURVEY DRAWING

Scale @ A2	Drawn by
Varies	CG
Date	App'd
26/03/24	-
Drawing no	Rev
23.1213/(EX)02	-

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redundant inspection chamber removed

external security fence and gate

NEW INSPECTION CHAMBER

NEW S.V.P

NEW R.W.P

NEW FOUL DRAIN

3570

250

glazed door

5990

4360

3281

100

1240

limited headroom at eaves (similar to dinig oom adjacent

roof window over

BEDROOM 5

EN-SUITE

NEW INSPECTION CHAMBER

NEW S.V.P

BATHROOM

UTILITY

EN-SUITE

BEDROOM 2

window blocked

UP

UP

new door opening

STORE

HALL

EN-SUITE

UP

DINING ROOM

LIVING ROOM

STAFF ROOM

BEDROOM 1

KITCHEN

EXISTING FOUL DRAIN

EXISTING INSPECTION CHAMBER

1 GROUND FLOOR PLAN AS PROPOSED

SCALE 1:50

Revisions

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Project

Northorpe Croft
43 Northorpe Lane,
Mirfield, WF14 0QJ

Drawing title

Ground Floor Plan as Proposed

PLANNING APPLICATION

Scale @ A2	Drawn by
1:50	CG
Date	App'd
26/03/24	-
Drawing no	Rev
23.1213/(AL)01	-

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Appendix 2

Coal Authority Report

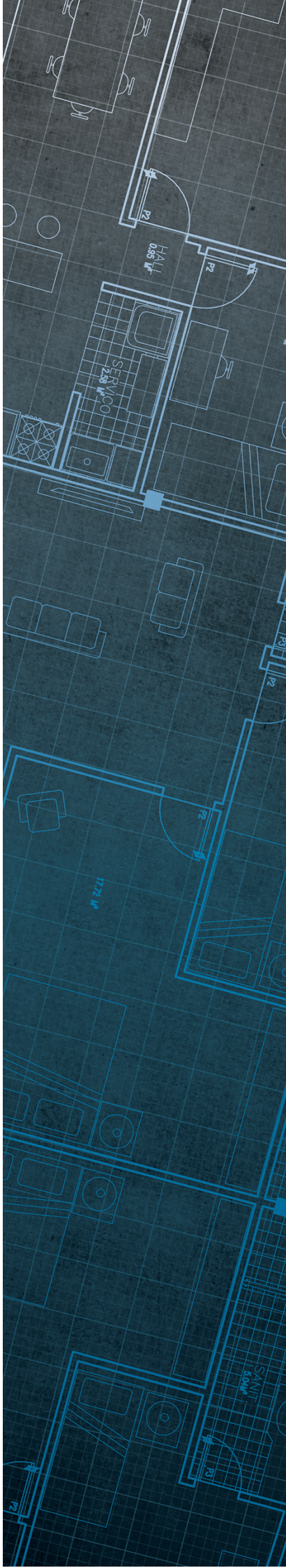
The Coal Authority

Consultants

Coal Mining Report

Northorpe Croft
Northorpe Lane
Mirfield
Kirklees
WF14 0QJ

Date of enquiry:	**24 June 2024**
Date enquiry received:	**24 June 2024**
Issue date:	**24 June 2024**
Our reference:	**51003433023001**
Your reference:	**C/4462/24/E/6809**



Consultants
Coal Mining Report

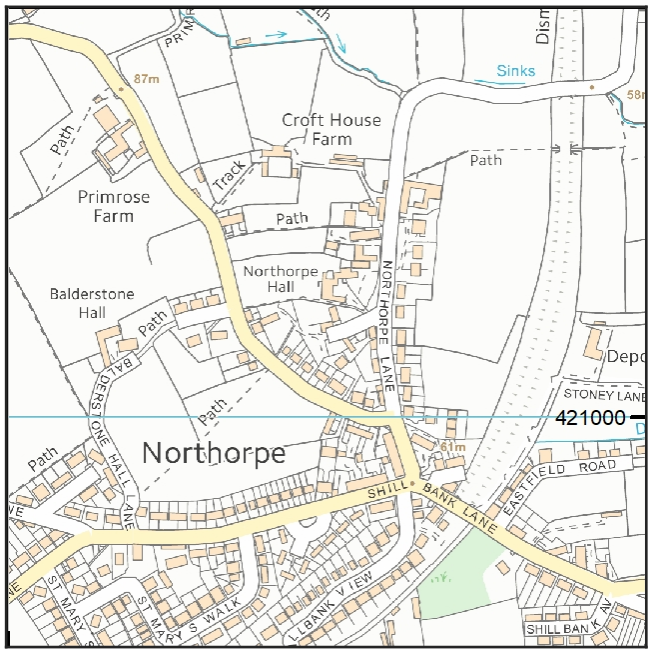
This report is based on and limited to the records held by the Coal Authority at the time the report was produced.

Client name

ROGERS GEOTECHNICAL SERVICES LTD

Enquiry address

Northorpe Croft
Northorpe Lane
Mirfield
Kirklees
WF14 0QJ



Approximate position of property

Map data

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Section 1 – Mining activity and geology

Past underground mining

Colliery	Seam	Mineral	Coal Authority reference	Depth (m)	Direction to working	Dipping rate of seam worked (degrees)	Dipped direction of seam worked	Extraction thickness (cm)	Year last mined
unnamed	SILKSTONE	Coal	62WI	14	North-East	5.5	South-East	51	1870
unnamed	BLACK BED	Coal	62WR	141	Beneath Property	1.1	South-East	76	1885
unnamed	BLACK BED	Coal	6HBN	169	South	2.7	East	76	1885
unnamed	BLACK BED	Coal	62WQ	173	North-East	2.4	South-East	76	1879

Probable unrecorded shallow workings

Yes.

Spine roadways at shallow depth

No spine roadway recorded at shallow depth.

Mine entries

Entry type	Reference	Grid reference	Treatment description	Mineral	Conveyancing details
Shaft	421421-005	421270 421054		Coal	
Adit	421421-019	421292 421077		Coal	
Adit	421421-023	421289 421056		Coal	

Abandoned mine plan catalogue numbers

The following abandoned mine plan catalogue numbers intersect with some, or all, of the enquiry boundary:

690	M278	2743
FGB475	10527	M276
GCR56	1800	M273

Our records show we have more plans than those shown above which could affect the enquiry boundary.

Please contact us on 0345 762 6848 to determine the exact abandoned mine plans you require based on your needs.

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Outcrops

No outcrops recorded.

Geological faults, fissures and breaklines

No faults, fissures or breaklines recorded.

Opencast mines

None recorded within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Coal Authority managed tips

None recorded within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.

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Section 2 – Investigative or remedial activity

Please refer to the 'Summary of findings' map (on separate sheet) for details of any activity within the area of the site boundary.

Site investigations
None recorded within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Remediated sites
None recorded within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Coal mining subsidence
The Coal Authority has not received a damage notice or claim for the subject property, or any property within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary, since 31 October 1994.

There is no current Stop Notice delaying the start of remedial works or repairs to the property.

The Coal Authority is not aware of any request having been made to carry out preventive works before coal is worked under section 33 of the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991.

Mine gas
None recorded within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Mine water treatment schemes
None recorded within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.

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Section 3 – Licensing and future mining activity

Future underground mining
None recorded.

Coal mining licensing
None recorded within 200 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Court orders
None recorded.

Section 46 notices
No notices have been given, under section 46 of the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991, stating that the land is at risk of subsidence.

Withdrawal of support notices
The property is not in an area where a notice to withdraw support has been given.

The property is not in an area where a notice has been given under section 41 of the Coal Industry Act 1994, cancelling the entitlement to withdraw support.

Payments to owners of former copyhold land
The property is not in an area where a relevant notice has been published under the Coal Industry Act 1975/Coal Industry Act 1994.

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Section 4 – Further information

The following potential risks have been identified and as part of your risk assessment should be investigated further.

Future development

If development proposals are being considered, technical advice relating to both the investigation of coal and former coal mines and their treatment should be obtained before beginning work on site. All proposals should apply specialist engineering practice required for former mining areas. No development should be undertaken that intersects, disturbs or interferes with any coal or coal mines without first obtaining the permission of the Coal Authority.

MINE GAS: Please note, if there are no recorded instances of mine gas within 500m of the enquiry boundary, this does not mean that mine gas is not present within the vicinity. The Coal Authority Mine Gas data is limited to only those sites where a Mine Gas incident has been recorded. Developers should be aware that the investigation of coal seams, mine workings or mine entries may have the potential to generate and/or displace underground gases. Associated risks both to the development site and any neighbouring land or properties should be fully considered when undertaking any ground works. The need for effective measures to prevent gases migrating onto any land or into any properties, either during investigation or remediation work, or after development must also be assessed and properly addressed. In these instances, the Coal Authority recommends that a more detailed Gas Risk Assessment is undertaken by a competent assessor.

Development advice

The site is within an area of historical coal mining activity. Should you require advice and/or support on understanding the mining legacy, its risks to your development or what next steps you need to take, please contact us.

For further information on specific site or ground investigations in relation to any issues raised in Section 4, please call us on 0345 762 6848 or email us at groundstability@coal.gov.uk.

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Section 5 – Data definitions

The datasets used in this report have limitations and assumptions within their results. For more guidance on the data and the results specific to the enquiry boundary, please **call us on 0345 762 6848** or **email us at groundstability@coal.gov.uk.**

Past underground coal mining

Details of all recorded underground mining relative to the enquiry boundary. Only past underground workings where the enquiry boundary is within 0.7 times the depth of the workings (zone of likely physical influence) allowing for seam inclination, will be included.

Probable unrecorded shallow workings

Areas where the Coal Authority believes there to be unrecorded coal workings that exist at or close to the surface (less than 30 metres deep).

Spine roadways at shallow depth

Connecting roadways either, working to working, or, surface to working, both in-seam and cross measures that exist at or close to the surface (less than 30 metres deep), either within or within 10 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Mine entries

Details of any shaft or adit either within, or within 100 metres of the enquiry boundary including approximate location, brief treatment details where known, the mineral worked from the mine entry and conveyance details where the mine entry has previously been sold by the Authority or its predecessors British Coal or the National Coal Board.

Abandoned mine plan catalogue numbers

Plan numbers extracted from the abandoned mines catalogue containing details of coal and other mineral abandonment plans deposited via the Mines Inspectorate in accordance with the Coal Mines Regulation Act and Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act 1872. A maximum of 9 plan extents that intersect with the enquiry boundary will be included. This does not infer that the workings and/or mine entries shown on the abandonment plan will be relevant to the site/property boundary.

Outcrops

Details of seam outcrops will be included where the enquiry boundary intersects with a conjectured or actual seam outcrop location (derived by either the British Geological Survey or the Coal Authority) or intersects with a defined 50 metres buffer on the coal (dip) side of the outcrop. An indication of whether the Coal Authority believes the seam to be of sufficient thickness and/or quality to have been worked will also be included.

Geological faults, fissures and breaklines

Geological disturbances or fractures in the bedrock. Surface fault lines (British Geological Survey derived data) and fissures and breaklines (Coal Authority derived data) intersecting with the enquiry boundary will be included. In some circumstances faults, fissures or breaklines have been known to contribute to surface subsidence damage as a consequence of underground coal mining.

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Opencast mines
Opencast coal sites from which coal has been removed in the past by opencast (surface) methods and where the enquiry boundary is within 500 metres of either the licence area, site boundary, excavation area (high wall) or coaling area.

Coal Authority managed tips
Locations of disused colliery tip sites owned and managed by the Coal Authority, located within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary.

Site investigations
Details of site investigations within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary where the Coal Authority has received information relating to coal mining risk investigation and/or remediation by third parties.

Remediated sites
Sites where the Coal Authority has undertaken remedial works either within or within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary following report of a hazard relating to coal mining under the Coal Authority's Emergency Surface Hazard Call Out procedures.

Coal mining subsidence
Details of alleged coal mining subsidence claims made since 31 October 1994 either within or within 50 metres of the enquiry boundary. Where the claim relates to the enquiry boundary confirmation of whether the claim was accepted, rejected or whether liability is still being determined will be given. Where the claim has been discharged, whether this was by repair, payment of compensation or a combination of both, the value of the claim, where known, will also be given.

Details of any current 'Stop Notice' deferring remedial works or repairs affecting the property/site, and if so the date of the notice.

Details of any request made to execute preventative works before coal is worked under section 33 of the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991. If yes, whether any person withheld consent or failed to comply with any request to execute preventative works.

Mine gas
Reports of alleged mine gas emissions received by the Coal Authority, either within or within 500 metres of the enquiry boundary that subsequently required investigation and action by the Coal Authority to mitigate the effects of the mine gas emission. Please note, if there are no recorded instances of mine gas reported, this does not mean that mine gas is not present within the vicinity. The Coal Authority Mine Gas data is limited to only those sites where a Mine Gas incident has been recorded.

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Mine water treatment schemes
Locations where the Coal Authority has constructed or operates assets that remove pollutants from mine water prior to the treated mine water being discharged into the receiving water body.

These schemes are part of the UK's strategy to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. Schemes fall into 2 basic categories: Remedial – mitigating the impact of existing pollution or Preventative – preventing a future pollution incident.

Mine water treatment schemes generally consist of one or more primary settlement lagoons and one or more reed beds for secondary treatment. A small number are more specialised process treatment plants.

Future underground mining
Details of all planned underground mining relative to the enquiry boundary. Only those future workings where the enquiry boundary is within 0.7 times the depth of the workings (zone of likely physical influence) allowing for seam inclination will be included.

Coal mining licensing
Details of all licenses issued by the Coal Authority either within or within 200 metres of the enquiry boundary in relation to the under taking of surface coal mining, underground coal mining or underground coal gasification.

Court orders
Orders in respect of the working of coal under the Mines (Working Facilities and Support) Acts of 1923 and 1966 or any statutory modification or amendment thereof.

Section 46 notices
Notice of proposals relating to underground coal mining operations that have been given under section 46 of the Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991.

Withdrawal of support notices
Published notices of entitlement to withdraw support and the date of the notice. Details of any revocation notice withdrawing the entitlement to withdraw support given under Section 41 of the Coal Industry Act 1994.

Payment to owners of former copyhold land
Relevant notices which may affect the property and any subsequent notice of retained interests in coal and coal mines, acceptance or rejection notices and whether any compensation has been paid to a claimant.

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Summary of findings

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Map data

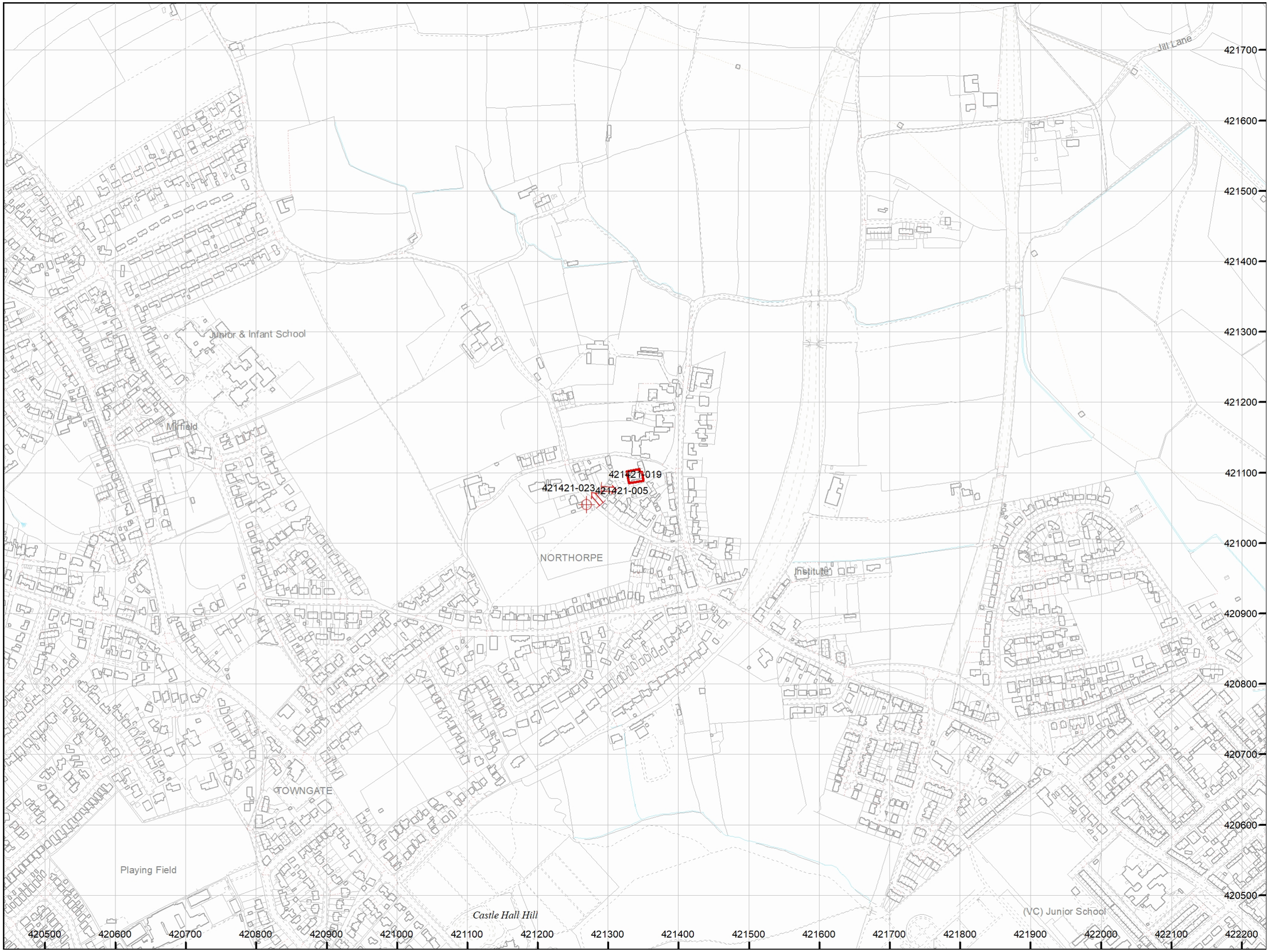
The map highlights any specific surface or subsurface features within or near to the boundary of the site.

Key

Approximate position of the enquiry boundary shown

Disused mine shaft

Disused adit



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